

Today's News - Monday, June 27, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us a museum in Spain that puts human evolution center stage.
- A round-up of the latest developments surrounding Ai Weiwei's release: "I am on bail. Please understand that I can't talk to you."
- An excellent, in-depth look at how "cities are putting people before cars," and why "the issue of highways - whether building or demolishing them - is a contentious one."
- Glancey visits NYC and is quite taken by the city's trend to work "closer to the ground - many of the most talked-about architectural and urban planning projects were low-rise and even low-key."
- Moore gives an excellent history of the sway Prince Charles has held over some major developments, then minces no words about what he thinks of "the heritage school of HRH" and the government's localism bill: "the future built environment of Britain, outside the big cities, could be prince-flavored."
- New Zealand has high hopes for a kinetic Bilbao effect with a new museum dedicated to home-grown master of kinetic art, Len Lye.
- Shuttleworth swears off "crazy shapes & silly profiles," thinks architects are too egotistical, and has no great hankering for a private yacht.
- In New Orleans, Eloueini explains his J-House: even if it does "look more like a French twist from a bakery," it really is inspired by the ubiquitous shotgun (comments think otherwise).
- We couldn't resist a re-run of William Cook's 2002 explanation of why brutalism and "some of our most despised structures" are "now cherished again."
- The "first professor of architecture in Africa" cheers his students doing well, is saddened by building collapses in Nigeria (apparently not architects' fault), and thinks "we can still do better if we can put in more honesty and dedication to the discharge of our duties...money is not everything."
- Karlsberger closes its doors after 83 years in business: a sad day for the company - and the industry.
- On a brighter note, AfH and Edge of Seven collaborate to bring community improvements to five remote villages in the Everest Region of Nepal.
- A plan to bring high-speed rail to the Northeast Corridor via private operators may be "intriguing" but could actually "derail passenger gains."
- On a brighter track, an eyeful of Van Alen's Life at the Speed of Rail competition winners (some real doozies!).
- Call for entries: 2011 Cleveland Design Competition: A NEW School Vision!!! (registration deadline extended!) + Submit ideas for Successful Designs for Healthy Inclusive Communities exhibition.

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Juan Navarro Baldeweg: Human Evolution Museum, Burgos, Spain

Understanding Ai Weiwei's Release: A Summary of the Latest Developments: "I am on bail. Please understand that I can't talk to you." - Artinfo

Go Down, Moses: Today cities are putting people before cars, replacing highways with green boulevards...the issue of highways — whether building or demolishing them — is a contentious one. -- Robert Moses; Janette Sadik-Khan; John Norquist; Congress for New Urbanism/CNU; Jane Jacobs; Waggoner & Ball Architects/Smart Mobility; Starr Whitehouse/Kiss+Cathcart [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Constructive criticism: New York's architecture comes down to earth: Once upon a time, New York threw up towering skyscrapers; now it seems happier working on projects closer to the ground...many of the most talked-about architectural and urban planning projects were low-rise and even low-key. By Jonathan Glancey -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Piet Oudolf; Jayne Merkel; Claire Weisz/WXY Architecture; Michael van Valkenburgh; William Menking/The Architects Newspaper; Interboro Partners; BMW Guggenheim Lab; Atelier Bow Wow- Guardian (UK)

The shape of Britain to come ... as designed by Prince Charles: Westminster's Chelsea Barracks planning decision is the latest in a series of victories for the heritage school of HRH. And there are signs that his views are falling on friendly ears in government...localism bill...If it works as intended, the future built environment of Britain, outside the big cities, could be prince-flavoured. By Rowan Moore -- Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment; Richard Rogers; Ahrends Burton and Koralek; Leon Krier; John Simpson; Liam O'Connor; Hank Dittmar; Robert Adam/Adam Architecture; Quinlan Terry; Squire and Partners; Dixon Jones; Kim Wilkie- Guardian (UK)

Green light for Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth: After years of controversy...it will be in a building that will gain international recognition for its stunning appearance and innovative design...14 metre high stainless steel ribbons that will give the gallery an international iconic status on a par with the artist it honours. -- Patterson Associates [image]- Taranaki Daily News (New Zealand)

Ken Shuttleworth: No more crazy shapes & silly profiles: ...the man behind the Gherkin doesn't 'get' the Shard, reckons the era of tall glass boxes is over and thinks a lot of designers are really egotistical. So why does the founder of Make think this is such a great time to be an architect? -- Foster + Partners- Building (UK)

The architect of the twisting, steel-girdered structure Uptown explains his future home: ...the structural underpinnings of the J-House may look more like a French twist from a bakery...but Eloueini says that the ubiquitous New Orleans shotgun is nonetheless the inspiration for it. -- Ammar Eloueini/AEDS [images]- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

A bit of rough: William Cook explains why brutalism...is now cherished again...some of our most despised structures have been restored, revamped - even given coveted listed status. The modern monoliths we once loathed have become our newest national monuments...how did a style that seemed to sum up everything that was awful about modern architecture suddenly become the height of fashion? -- Denys Lasdun; Erno Goldfinger; Alison and Peter Smithson; Le Corbusier; Hugh Casson; Richard Rogers; Cesar Pelli; Rick Mather- New Statesman (UK)

"Building collapse in Nigeria is saddening": The first professor of architecture in Africa, Ekundayo Adeyinka Adeyemi says he is fulfilled seeing his students doing well...speaks on the roles of Nigerian architects and how they can make their work worthwhile..."we have come of age but we can still do better if we can put in more honesty and dedication to the discharge of our duties...money is not everything." -- Nigeria Institute of Architects - 234NEXT (Lagos, Nigeria)

Karlsberger closing – "sad day for our team": ...closed its doors after 83 years in business...the fourth-largest architectural firm in the region...the "general economic times have made it impossible for the firm to continue. Our level of revenues are insufficient for us to meet our ongoing obligations." - Columbus Business Journal (Ohio)

Edge of Seven and Architecture for Humanity collaborate on the Solukhumbu Development Project: ...to bring systemic community improvements to five remote villages in the Everest Region of Nepal, where residents currently lack basic access to clean water, adequate sanitation and equal education. - Edge of Seven / Architecture for Humanity

Editorial: Amtrak idea is risky: A plan...to offer Amtrak's Northeast Corridor to private operators in the hope that Wall Street investors will speed the arrival of truly high-speed trains is intriguing, but not ready to leave the station...may derail passenger gains. - Philadelphia Inquirer

Competition winners imagine Life at the Speed of Rail: Van Alen Institute will be taking [them] on the road (although unfortunately not yet by train). Stops include St. Louis, Houston, and Los Angeles... -- Design With Company; Rael San Fratello Architects; SEUNGTEAK + MJUNG; MANIFESTO Architecture; Annie Kurtin/Laura Stedman
[images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: 2011 Cleveland Design Competition: A NEW School Vision!!! submit extraordinary visions for a new K - 12 public school in Downtown Cleveland; cash prizes; registration deadline [extended]: July 15 (submission deadline: August 3)- Cleveland Design Competition

Call for entries: Special Exhibit: Successful Designs for Healthy Inclusive Communities; categories: Urban Plazas; Mixed Use, and Walkable Neighborhoods; deadline: October 1- International Making Cities Livable (IMCL)

Book Review: A Shout Out for Leers Weinzapfel Associates - Some Meditations on Rejuvenating Campus Architecture: "Lovers of the Difficult" was one of many compellingly memorable phrases by the great poet Rainer Maria Rilke, and it's a phrase that comes readily to mind when perusing the new retrospective monograph, "Made to Measure" ... By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Poetry as Rescuing Angel: The Angel Island Immigration Station, San Francisco Bay: Long abandoned and near demolition, an important part of American immigration history was saved by writings on the wall. -- Architectural Resources Group; Tom Eliot Fisch; Daniel Quan Design- ArchNewsNow

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